



MINUTES

Board of Selectmen

Tuesday, October 13, 2015 at 6:00 P.M.

Town Hall Hearing Room, 60 Center Square

East Longmeadow, Massachusetts, 01028

Present: Paul L. Federici, Chairman, Board of Selectmen, William R. Gorman, Chairman, Board of Health, Angela Thorpe, Clerk of the Board

The Chairman of the Board opened the meeting at 6:00 P.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

6:00 P.M. - TAX CLASSIFICATION HEARING

The Chairman of the Board of Selectmen opened the Hearing.

Present were Bill Johnson, Chairman, Board of Assessors, Martin Grudgen, Member and Diane Bishop, Director of Assessing

The Chairman of the Board of Assessors gave a presentation and explanation to the Board on the FY16 Tax Classification. Notice was made that State Law requires that the Board of Selectmen and only the Board of Selectmen make the decision. The recommendation was for a level tax rate. Mr. Christenson with the Five Town East of the River Chamber spoke in support of a single tax rate. There was further discussion from the Board with their thoughts; all were in support of a single tax rate.

Motion:

P. Federici entertained a motion to keep the tax rate at a factor of one. So moved by W. Gorman A. Thorpe seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

The Chairman of the Board closed the Hearing.

PUBLIC FORUM

6:30 P.M. - Joseph Occhiuti, 215 Allen Street, re: Charter Communications

Mr. Occhiuti a 3 ½ year resident of East Longmeadow told the Board that he feels the program has been deteriorating and malfunctions to frequently. He about getting help from State legislators to change some of the laws. Mr. Occhiuti did not think it's right for the Town to have a company come in and have a monopoly to do what they want. Mr. Occhiuti was aware of the Advisory Committee, however, they only listen and cannot do anything. Mr. Occhiuti just wanted to say that the people are not getting the service for the money and that there is a lack of communication.

APPOINTMENTS:

6:45 P.M. - Recreation Director & Eagle Scout, Tyler Lamon, re: Propose Project Brown Property

Board of Selectmen Meeting 10-13-15
Appointments continued

Tyler Lamon gave an overview of his project was to map the horse trails on the Brown property. The Recreation Director stated the Commission gave their full support of the Eagle Scout project and spoke about the process. The Recreation Director spoke about the Electronic GPS he purchased to map the trails; a link will be added to the Town's Web Site. The Board mentioned to have Tyler connect with George Kingston. The Recreation Director will assist Tyler. There was further discussion.

Motion:

P. Federici entertained a motion to allow Tyler Lamon to proceed with the project. So moved by W. Gorman. A. Thorpe seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

6:55 P.M. - Paul Morrisette, Fire Chief

Annual Open House

The Chief reported that the Open House held on Saturday, October 10th was very successful. The Chief thanked Selectman Thorpe for attending. The Chief thanked Selectman Thorpe for attending.

Request to appoint Edward McCandlish to the position of Captain

The Chief reported the he is appointing Lieutenant Edward McCandlish to the position of Captain per the Rules & Regulations of the East Longmeadow Fire Department. This approval was subject to the Board of Selectmen's approval as Fire Commissioners.

Motion:

P. Federici entertained a motion to appoint Edward McCandlish to the position of Captain. So moved by A. Thorpe. W. Gorman seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Request to appoint Christopher Beecher to the position of Lieutenant

The Chief reported that he is appointing Firefighter Christopher Beecher to the position of Lieutenant per the Rules & Regulations of the East Longmeadow Fire Department. This approval was subject to the Board of Selectmen's approval as Fire Commissioners.

Motion:

P. Federici entertained a motion to appoint Christopher Beecher to the position of Lieutenant. So moved by A. Thorpe. W. Gorman seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Fire Apparatus Replacement Program

The Fire Chief spoke about his Fire Apparatus Replacement Program he submitted for the Board's review. There was lengthy discussion on the proposal and the different options for payment plans. The Chief wanted to just start the discussion; the official request will be coming. The Board took it under advisement.

Old Fire Station

The Board was in receipt of letters with comments from the Fire Chief, Interim Town Administrator and Emergency Management Director, Brian Falk regarding the old fire station. Each individual elaborated on their thoughts with regards to using the building as a meeting place or housing for Emergency Management, LEPC, CERT MRC, RECC and the cost to repair

Board of Selectmen Meeting 10-13-15
Appointment Fire Chief continued

the building. Also present for the discussion were the Police Chief and Frank Morrissino. The discussion was lengthy for and against the old fire station and also utilizing the Somers Road

Fire Station for the EOC. There was also mention that all the antennas for the radio communication system were removed from the tower when the new radios were put up at the Fire Station. There was further discussion from Frank Morrissino that the antenna system needs to go back up to support the EOC and the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES). A meeting will be set up for Wednesday, October 21st at 2pm with all involved to discuss the issue and having access to the buildings.

7:05 P.M. - Douglas Mellis, Police Chief

Hiring of New Officers

The Chief spoke about creating a second detective position to help with the increase of investigations. The Chief reminded the Board that a Sergeant will be retiring July 2016. Continuing, the Chief told the Board that the next start date at the Western Mass Academy is March 28, 2016 which runs for twenty plus weeks and there are forty-eight seats available. The deadline to get the application in is February 29, 2016. The cost to have two students in the Academy will be six-thousand dollars that will be reimbursed when the students graduate. The Chief is waiting for the certification test, hoping to have it by the end of November. The Board will be informed when the list is coming. The Chief was asked to look into other Academies because of the issues in the past with Western Mass.

911 RECC

The Board discussed continuing with the 911 RECC, both Chief's agreed that it was best to pursue. There was further discussion from the Chief's.

Motion:

P. Federici proposed a motion to sign the Regional 911 Agreement to afford the Town to proceed to get information regarding the cost. So moved by A. Thorpe. W. Gorman seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Letter Outstanding Medical Assistance

The Chief brought to the Board's attention a true life and death situation and presented the letter from the individual complementing the officers on a "job well done".

7:15 P.M. – Thomas Florence, Clerk/Treasurer/Collector, re: Reserve Fund Transfer, Clerk's Office

The Clerk recapped that the agreement was signed by the Assistant Treasurer but the money was not in the budget, it was in the supplemental but that was not passed. The only way to fund is to have the Board approve a Reserve Fund Transfer then it will go to Appropriations for their signature.

Motion:

P. Federici entertained a motion to approve the Reserve Fund Transfer for the Town Clerk's Office. So moved by W. Gorman. A. Thorpe seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Board of Selectmen Meeting 10-13-15
Approval of minutes continued

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Open Session & Executive Session Minutes 2-3-15

Motion:

P. Federici entertained a motion to approve the open session and executive session minutes of February 3, 2015 with minor grammatical changes. So moved by A. Thorpe. W. Gorman seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Open Session & Executive Session Minutes 2-5-15

Motion:

P. Federici entertained a motion to approve the open session and executive session minutes of February 5, 2015. So moved by A. Thorpe. W. Gorman seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

OLD BUSINESS

Brown Property Vote

At the last meeting the Board voted Selectman Thorpe in as Chairman of the Brown Farm Committee. There was discussion on the letter received by the Brown Farm Committee requesting that Selectman Thorpe be removed from the Committee as a voting member and that she be liaison to the Committee instead. The Brown Farm Committee explained that it would be a conflict because Selectman Thorpe is a member of the Board of Selectmen which has the final decision on any use of the property. The Brown Farm Committee voted on this at their October 6th meeting. There was further discussion. Selectman Thorpe volunteered stepping down as Chairman.

Board of Selectmen schedule Meetings for Nov. & Dec. 2015

The Meeting of Tuesday, November 10th will be changed to Friday, November 13th, 2015. December will remain the same.

Update, Boards & Commissions vacancies

The Interim Town Administrator reported that he posted a press release for the vacancies but has not received any letters of interest. The Board will be updated when letters of interest are received.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution, Proclaiming October as 4-H Month

Present were Heather and Gabby Cunningham, Linda and Kate Soucha

The Clerk of the Board read the Resolution into the record.

Motion:

P. Federici entertained a motion to proclaim October as 4-H Month in the Town of East Longmeadow. So moved by A. Thorpe. W. Gorman seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Benefits Administration Manager, re: Implementation of salary increase (FY16)

Board of Selectmen Meeting 10-13-15
BOS new business continued

The Interim Town Administrator briefed the Board that after the discussion at the Appropriations Committee meeting the Accountant and the Interim looked to see what could be done to implement a salary increase. The Accountant and the Interim checked to see what was budgeted for the former Administrator and discovered that there were sufficient funds in the budget to pay this year's increase. There was some discussion by Selectman Federici why Appropriations did not want to go ahead with this and that this has been going on for some time. Selectman Gorman was in agreement. Selectman Thorpe felt that the Fall Town Meeting was for "clean-up" and felt that salary increases should go for the Annual Town meeting but did like this because it is for one-year and does give the Townspeople an opportunity to talk about it at the next Town Meeting.

Motion:

P. Federici entertained a motion to fund the increase in the employee's salary through the existing funds available through the Selectmen's Budget for FY16. So moved by W. Gorman.
A. Thorpe seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Interim Town Administrator

The Interim presented two options for the Board to consider for an extension of his contract term. The current contract is through November 6, 2015. This will be tabled for the next Board Meeting.

Building Department

The Interim spoke about designating the Building Department as a Division under the Board of Selectmen. Continuing, the Interim would be willing to offer \$4,800 dollars of his salary for this year to fund the increase of salaries for the Electrical and Plumbing Inspectors. The Building Commissioner is aware of the Interim's proposal. The increases in the Inspectors salaries have been going around and around if the Board approved or not since July and is now on the Warrant for the Special Town Meeting. This could be done only if Building was approved as a Division of the Board of Selectmen. Town Counsel suggested tabling until there is a conversation with the Town Accountant. The existing Building Department budget was approved as a separate Department appropriation through Town Meeting vote. Counsel had further discussion. This item was tabled until there was a conversation with the Town Accountant and the Treasurer.

Retiree Insurance Request

This was a request from a retiree to dis-enroll from the group contributory health insurance and maintain eligibility to come on at a later time, which is against standard policy. The Interim said that this was a tough call and explained to the Board. The Benefits Administrator gave her recommendation for approval. There was further discussion that this would be a savings for the Town if the Board approves; the Board was concerned with setting a precedent. Town Counsel stated that unless the Board wants to change the rule across the Board he did not recommend that the Board approve individualized changes. The Board took no action. The Administrator will take up with Town Counsel.

National Grid Pole Location

The Interim Town Administrator briefed the Board on the Braeburn Road pole location hearing

Board of Selectmen Meeting 10-13-15
BOS new business continued

that took place on Monday, October 5, 2015 at the Town Hall; no residents were in attendance.

Moton:

P. Federici entertained a motion to allow the pole location for the Braeburn Road work request #20150373. So moved by W. Gorman. A. Thorpe seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Letter of interest, Cultural Council

Motion:

P. Federici entertained a motion to have Ann Parquette become a member of the Cultural Council. So moved by W. Gorman. A. Thorpe seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Request from the Rotary Club of East Longmeadow, 4th Annual Fall Fair

Motion:

P. Federici entertained a motion to approve the Rotary Club's 4th Annual Fall Fair, "EL Together" Temporary Food Service Permit, Entertainment and Activities on Saturday, October 24, 2015 from 8:00am-6:00pm at Veterans' Field. So moved by A. Thorpe. W. Gorman seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Request from EL UNICO

Motion:

P. Federici entertained a motion to approve the request from the EL UNICO for a One Day Liquor License (beer & wine) on Friday, November 13, 2015 from 6:00pm-10:00pm at St. Luke's Church, 400 Prospect Street, in conjunction with their Porchetta Supper. So moved by W. Gorman. A. Thorpe seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

BOARD OF HEALTH

OLD BUSINESS

Health Agent Update

It was reported by the Chairman of the Board of Health that eight resumes have been received. The Board will interview four candidates on Tuesday, October 20, 2015 starting at 6:00pm.

Community Funds

The Interim Town Administrator gave an update on the community funds that they were in the process of being completed. There is a balance of \$1,500 which will be discussed later on in the meeting in conjunction with #26 on the Agenda, Update on Minutes.

EL MassDEP Grant

The Town of East Longmeadow was awarded Recycling Dividends Funds and Small-Scale Initiative Funds under the Sustainable Materials Recovery Program in the amount of \$6,850 dollars.

NEW BUSINESS

EL Football Association Food Service Permit

Board of Selectmen Meeting 10-13-15
BOH new business continued

Motion:

W. Gorman entertained a motion to approve the Food Service Permit for the East Longmeadow Football Association (Concession Stand, 180 Maple Street) for the football season. So moved by A. Thorpe. P. Federici seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

WF Young Certificate of Free Sale

Motion:

W. Gorman entertained a motion to approve the WF Young Certificates (2) of Free Sale for Brazil. So moved by P. Federici. A. Thorpe seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

CORRESPONDENCE

Notification from Charter Communication

The Board noted the correspondence from Charter Communications regarding an addition to the channel line-up.

Update on the Land Fill

Correspondence was received from the Superintendent of Public Works regarding the land fill and some costs associated with it. The Interim Town Administrator will be looking at it closely and will keep the Board posted.

Pet Sheltering Policy

This policy was a recommendation for the Board to review from Brian Flak, Emergency Management Director. The Interim Town Administrator will review and get back to the Board.

MEETINGS/INVITATIONS/REMINDERS

The Clerk of the Board read into the record the meetings/invitations/reminder

Charter Commission Public Hearing, Thurs., Oct. 15, 2015 at 7pm, HS Auditorium, 180 Maple

Open House, Historical Museum, 87 Maple Street, Sat., Oct. 17, 2015 from 1pm-3pm

Board of Selectmen Meeting before the Special Town Meeting, Mon., Oct. 19, 2015 at 6pm in the HS Conference Rm. C-3, 180 Maple St.

Special Town Meeting, Mon., Oct. 19, 2015, 7pm EL High School Auditorium, 180 Maple St.

Capital Planning Committee Meeting, Mon., Oct. 19, 2015 at 6pm HS Cafeteria, 180 Maple St.

Historical House "Fall Program" on Wed., Oct. 21, 2015 at 7pm, COA Media Rm., 328 North Main St., guest speaker retired EL Police Sgt. Patrick Manley

Rabies & Dog Licensing Clinic, Sat., Oct. 24, 2015 from 10am-Noon at AW Brown, 144 Shaker

Open house for Brown Farm Property, Sat., Oct. 31, 2015 from 11am-2pm, Hampden Road

MMA's 2016 Annual Meeting and Trade Show, Fri., Jan. 22 & Sat., Jan. 23, 2016, Hynes Convention Center, Boston

TOWN COUNSEL

OLD BUSINESS

Grievance, Moore/Healey

The Board of Selectmen will be attending the hearing on December 14, 2015.

Board of Selectmen Meeting 10-13-15
continued

Motion:

P. Federici entertained a motion to adjourn to executive session to discuss matters related to union and non-union negotiations because to do so in open session may potentially effect the

Town's position and also to discuss matters relating to employee discipline to return to open session only to adjourn. So moved by A. Thorpe. W. Gorman seconded. Motion passed 3-0 by roll call vote. Selectman Thorpe, yes. Selectman Gorman, yes. Selectman Federici, yes.

Motion:

P. Federici entertained a motion to adjourn. So moved by A. Thorpe. W. Gorman seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 P.M.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lorraine Banspach, Assistant Executive Secretary

MINUTES APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27,
2015

Angela Thorpe, Clerk of the Board